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Reply to Office Action of July 28, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 28, wherein the communications link is an Internet connection.
3. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 28, further comprising ~~computer means for analyzing the collected data and diagnosing conditions~~ at least one computer configured to analyze the collected data and diagnose conditions.
4. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 28, wherein the collected information comprises at least one type of information selected from the group consisting of information provided by the patient; fundus information; posterior segment information; refraction information; neutralization of the habitual description; tonometry information; visual fields information; blood pressure information; anterior segment information; corneal topography; retinal information; intraocular lens status, and combinations thereof. of the following:
  - ~~fundus information;~~
  - ~~posterior segment information;~~
  - ~~refraction information;~~
  - ~~neutralization of the habitual description;~~
  - ~~tonometry information;~~

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~~visual fields information;~~  
~~blood pressure information;~~  
~~anterior segment information;~~  
~~corneal topography;~~  
~~retinal information; or~~  
~~intraocular lens status.~~

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[1]] 28, wherein ~~a patient being examined in one of the at least one remote exam modules confers with an eye care professional in the diagnostic center via real time teleconferencing~~ the communications link is effective in enabling real-time teleconferencing between a patient located at one of the remote exam modules and the eye care practitioner located at the diagnostic center.

7. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[1]] 28, wherein the at least one remote exam module ~~includes~~ further comprises a display unit for displaying a questionnaire to a patient for collection of patient history data.

8. (Currently amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the display unit ~~is provided with~~ comprises a touch-screen that allows the patient to enter responses to the questionnaire.

9. (Currently amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the at least one remote exam module includes further comprises a voice activated input unit that receives verbal responses to the questionnaire.

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10. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[6]] 28, wherein ~~the patient's case history is posted on a web site for access by a patient~~ further comprising an Internet web site comprising the patient's case history accessible by the patient located at one of the at least one remote exam modules.

11. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[1]] 28, wherein the at least one remote exam module comprises eye examination instruments used in eye examinations, connected to outputs of the plurality of ~~optical~~ eye examination devices, for converting data provided by the outputs to a digital signal.

12. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[1]] 28, wherein the exam controller comprises a computer connected to the plurality of ~~different~~ eye examination devices for controlling at least one operation of at least one of the ~~different~~ eye examination devices.

13. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[1]] 28, wherein the exam controller ~~controls~~ is configured to control the creation of an examination record in the database.

14. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[1]] 28, wherein the exam controller ~~retrieves~~ is configured to retrieve a patient record from the database.

15. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[1]] 28, wherein records in the database are ~~accessed~~ accessible via a web interface.

16. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[3]] 28, wherein the ~~diagnosed conditions are included in~~ diagnostic center

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comprises a computer configured to provide a patient report sent to the patient via the communications link between the exam module and the central diagnostic center.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 31, further comprising:

displaying images corresponding to the transmitted collected information with an eye exam console; and

diagnosing ophthalmic conditions of the patient by examining the images.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein displaying the images comprises displaying the images in substantially real-time.

20. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 17,~~ further ~~comprising: conducting analysis of the transmitted data to~~ diagnose conditions claim 31, wherein the diagnosis is obtained by analyzing the transmitted information.

21. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 17,~~ further ~~comprising:~~

~~updating the patient's health and visual history information to the database after the patient is tested and a diagnosis is produced~~ claim 31, wherein the diagnostic center comprises a database, and the method further comprises updating the patient's health and visual history information to the database after the patient is tested and the diagnosis is provided.

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22. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~17~~, ~~further comprising:~~

~~transmitting to an exam module a diagnosis report based on the collected information and~~

~~providing the report to the patient~~ claim 31, wherein the diagnosis is provided as a report to the patient.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 31, further comprising:

exchanging real-time video using a teleconferencing system.

24. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 17~~, ~~further comprising:~~

~~accessing records in the database through a world wide web interface~~ claim 31, wherein the information is transmitted through a world wide web interface.

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 31, wherein the collecting information step comprises collecting at least one type of information selected from the group consisting of information provided by the patient; fundus information; posterior segment information; refraction information; neutralization of the habitual description; tonometry information; visual fields information; blood pressure information; anterior segment information; corneal topography; retinal information; intraocular lens status, and combinations thereof. ~~of the following:~~

~~fundus information;~~

~~posterior segment information;~~

~~refraction information;~~

~~the patient's visual acuity;~~

~~neutralization of the habitual prescription;~~

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~~tonometry information,~~  
~~visual fields information,~~  
~~blood pressure information,~~  
~~anterior segment information,~~  
~~corneal topography,~~  
~~retinal information, or~~  
~~intraocular lens status.~~

26-27. (Cancelled)

28. (New) A telemedicine system comprising:

(1) at least one remote exam module comprising,  
a plurality of eye examination devices configured to examine an eye of a patient, and a controller effective in collecting information from the plurality of eye examination devices and in controlling examination of the eye of the patient;

(2) a diagnostic center for directing the examination of the eye and analyzing collected information of the eye examination, the diagnostic center being remotely located from the at least one remote exam module and comprising,

a database for maintaining records corresponding to the collected information, and

an exam console for displaying transmitted information corresponding to the collected information to an eye care practitioner located at the diagnostic center for analysis thereof; and

(3) a communications link effective in enabling substantially real-time interactive communication between an eye care practitioner located at the diagnostic center and a patient located at the at least one remote exam module and transmission

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of information between the diagnostic center and the at least one remote exam module.

29. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the diagnostic center further comprises a video conferencing system.

30. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the diagnostic center includes no eye examination devices.

31. (New) A method of conducting eye examination from a remote location, comprising:

examining a patient's eye at a remote exam module using at least one of a plurality of eye examination devices;

collecting information, including eye examination information, of the patient;

transmitting the collected information to a diagnostic center remotely located from the eye exam module, the transmitted information being displayable on an exam console of the diagnostic center and viewable by an eye care practitioner located at the diagnostic center for analysis thereof; and

providing a diagnosis of the patient based on the eye examination by transmitting information from the diagnostic center to the exam module via a communications link.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising establishing a substantially real-time interactive communication link between the eye care practitioner located at the diagnostic center and the patient located at one of the at least one remote exam modules.

33. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the collected information comprises information provided by the patient, and

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objective information obtained from examination of the patient's  
eye.



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